

INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

32-L

Action

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Classification

Control: 4305

Rec'd: FEBRUARY 7, 1959  
7:27 AM

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Info

FROM: MOSCOW

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1571, PRIORITY BERLIN 112, BONN 201, REPEATED  
INFORMATION LONDON 307, PARIS 279, HEIDELBERG UNNUMBERED.

HEIDELBERG FOR POLAD USAREUR

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND WEST.

BERLIN'S 673.

BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US TO TAKE UP INSPECTION  
ISSUE AT PRESENT TIME WITH SOVIET MFA EITHER ON TRIPARTITE  
BASIS OR UNILATERALLY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN CURRENT STATUS  
DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN. AGREE COMPLETELY WITH  
BERLIN'S ESTIMATE THAT UNLIKELY SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO SETTLE  
ISSUE TO OUR SATISFACTION BUT THIS APPLIES EVEN MORE TO TAKING  
UP MATTER IN MOSCOW AND IN FACT WE WOULD BE USING THE COURT  
OF LAST RESORT TO TRY AND SETTLE AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT EVEN  
DRAMATIZED AT THE MOMENT BY A SPECIFIC CASE OF HOLDING UP  
A WESTERN CONVOY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT MARKUSHIN'S REMARK  
TO BURNS IS NECESSARILY PROOF THAT SOVIETS WILL PURSUE THE  
MATTER UNLESS NEW INCIDENT DEVELOPS.

BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RUN OUR CONVOYS BETWEEN BERLIN  
AND FGR AS USUAL, (ALTHOUGH AVOIDING PARTICULARLY DURING  
NEXT FEW WEEKS USE OF TRUCKS OF TYPE LIKELY TO PROVOKE  
INCIDENTS) AND REMAIN ADAMANT ON INSPECTION ISSUE IF RAISED  
AGAIN BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AT CHECKPOINT, EXHAUSTING ALL POSSIBLE  
MEANS PROTEST AT LOCAL LEVEL BEFORE RAISING ISSUE TO GOVERNMENT

PERMANENT

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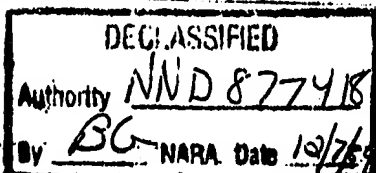
-2- 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM FROM MOSCOW

LEVEL. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT RECENT INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND IN END RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR MAY HAVE EMBARRASSED SOVIETS AND THEY MAY EVEN BE RELUCTANT TO LOCK HORNS WITH US SOON AGAIN ON SAME ISSUE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THEY DO SO WE SHOULD IN OUR OPINION REMAIN FIRM AND ONLY AS MATTER OF LAST RESORT TAKE UP MATTER ON UNILATERAL BASIS HERE, I.E., THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE CONVOY IS BEING DETAINED SHOULD RAISE MATTER AND NOT THREE POWERS, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

THOMPSON

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